

Amendment No. 1 to SB1387

Johnson
Signature of Sponsor

AMEND Senate Bill No. 1387

House Bill No. 1307*

by deleting all language after the caption and substituting the following:

WHEREAS, the General Assembly finds and declares that it is estimated that over thirty-five thousand Tennesseans suffer from lupus, an autoimmune disease in which the body's disease-fighting system attacks healthy tissues and organs, with effects ranging from inflammation, damage to bodily structures, seizures, strokes, heart attacks, miscarriages, and organ failure, to loss of life; and

WHEREAS, although anyone can develop lupus, it strikes mostly women of childbearing age (25-44), with African-American, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American women two to three times more likely than Caucasians to develop lupus; and

WHEREAS, lupus, with symptoms similar to many other illnesses, can be difficult to diagnose, taking an average of six years from onset of symptoms to a confirmed diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly finds and declares that it is in the public interest for this State to improve education and awareness about lupus for healthcare providers and the general public; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1.

(a) There is created the Tennessee Task Force on Lupus Education and Awareness.

(b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

(1) One (1) member of the senate appointed by the speaker of the senate;

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(2) One (1) member of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(3) The commissioner of health or the commissioner's designee;

(4) The commissioner of commerce and insurance or the commissioner's designee;

(5) The commissioner of finance and administration or the commissioner's designee;

(6) A lupus patient appointed by the speaker of the senate;

(7) A representative of a community organization working to create awareness and provide education about lupus appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; and

(8) Additional task force members to be appointed by the speaker of the senate or the speaker of the house of representatives, as needed in the determination of each speaker.

(c) The task force shall be convened by the legislative member with the most years of continuous service in the general assembly, and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice chair, and other officers the task force deems necessary.

(d) The members of the task force shall serve without compensation or reimbursement for expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties.

(e) All appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the task force upon request of the chair.

(f) The task force shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

(1) Consider the report provided by the Joint Lupus Study Committee created by Chapter 871 of the Public Acts of 2016 of information on lupus endorsed by government agencies, including the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

(2) Investigate the level of education concerning lupus in this state, including, but not limited to, public awareness and education of healthcare providers; and

(3) Develop recommendations for increasing awareness of lupus among the general public and healthcare providers.

(g) The task force shall submit its findings and recommendations to the governor and general assembly in the form of a state plan to increase awareness about lupus no later than January 31, 2018, at which time the task force shall terminate and stand dissolved and discharged from any further duties.

(h) The task force may solicit and accept donations, gifts, grants, property, or matching funds from any public or private source for the use of the council in performing its functions under this act.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.